

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 44 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 20, 21, 29, 34 and 40 have been amended. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hahn, *et al.*, U. S. Patent No. 5,751,287 (“Hahn”) in view of Billmers, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,630 (“Billmers”).

Claims 20 – 44

Claims 20 – 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hahn in view of Billmers. Applicants have amended independent claims 20, 21, 29, 34 and 40 in response to this rejection. Claims 29, 34 and 40, as amended, now require “storing as an explorer a set of parameters defining said query and said explorer display schema” and “executing a set of instructions that reads said set of parameters.” Similarly, claims 20 and 21 now require “an explorer parameter storage component configured to store a set of parameters defining a query and one or more visual elements to be displayed in accordance with an explorer display schema” and a module configured to “execute a set of instructions that reads said set of parameters to allow presentation of” selected items. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Hahn nor Billmers, either alone or in combination, teaches these claim elements.

Hahn teaches a user interface that presents documents organized in terms of a file cabinet. The file cabinet is a metaphor for physical file drawers or file folders, and “[i]n response to the user selecting a particular file drawer image, the contents of the particular file drawer image are displayed to the user in much the same way the contents of a physical file drawer are displayed when opened.” Hahn, col. 4, ll. 38- 41. Because many users are familiar

with the organization of filing cabinets, the interface of Hahn purports to be an improvement over other document management interfaces.

Billmers teaches a system for organizing received messages. In this system, filtering rules are used to define folders that organize received messages. Billmers, col. 2, ll. 9 – 10. For example, a filter may divide received messages based on message source or message type. Billmers, col. 2, ll. 11 – 15. The system also includes message folders, which include a search query stored within each folder. Billmers, col. 2, ll. 23 – 25. When the user requests to view the contents of a given folder, the search query for that folder is passed to a search engine. Billmers, col. 2, ll. 30 – 35. The search engine generates search results based on the search query. Billmers, col. 2, ll. 30 – 39. In this manner, messages are associated with a given folder, as defined by the search query.

Hahn and Billmers are silent concerning storing a set of parameters defining a query and visual elements in a display schema. Hahn merely teaches displaying files that have been assigned to a folder. Billmers teaches storing a query but does not teach providing parameters defining a query and a display schema. Further, neither reference teaches presenting an explorer by executing a set of instructions that reads parameters defining a query and display elements.

In contrast, claims 20 and 21, as amended, require “an explorer parameter storage component configured to store a set of parameters defining a query and one or more visual elements to be displayed in accordance with an explorer display schema” and a module configured to “execute a set of instructions that reads said set of parameters to allow presentation of” selected items. Similarly, claims 29, 34 and 40, as amended, recite “storing as an explorer a set of parameters defining said query and said explorer display schema” and “executing a set of

instructions that reads said set of parameters.” Neither Hahn nor Billmers, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests these claim elements.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 20, 21, 29, 34 and 40 are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 22 - 28, which depend from claim 21, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21. Applicants submit that dependent claims 30 - 33, which depend from claim 29, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 29. Applicants submit that dependent claims 35 - 39, which depend from claim 34, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 34. Finally, Applicants submit that dependent claims 41 - 44, which depend from claim 40, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 40.

Claims 1 – 19

Claims 1 – 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hahn in view of Billmers. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 in response to this rejection. Claim 1 now requires “an explorer including a set of parameters defining a query and one or more visual elements to be displayed in accordance with an explorer display schema.” Similarly, claim 11, as amended, requires “storing as an explorer a set of parameters defining said query and said explorer display schema.” Applicants respectfully submit that neither Hahn nor Billmers, either alone or in combination, teaches these claim elements.

As previously discussed, Hahn and Billmers are silent concerning storing a set of parameters defining a query and visual elements in a display schema. Hahn merely displays files

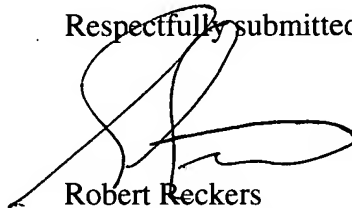
that have been assigned to a folder, while Billmers teaches storing a query along with a folder. Neither reference teaches defining an explorer as a set of parameters.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2 - 10, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 12 - 19, which depend from claim 11, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1 - 44 are now in condition for allowance. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Reckers', written over a horizontal line.

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